(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would take up this programme in a big way during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) The Sub-Committee on Housing Facilities for Women Teachers of the Central Advisory Board of Education has recommended, *inter alia*, that for rural areas, efforts may be made to take up a programme of constructing houses for women employees of various departments, including women teachers, on a cluster basis *i.e.* for a compact group of villages, these may be built in a cluster at a central village. Low cost construction techniques should be utilised in the programme. It may be jointly funded by the departments concerned, with one of them assuming nodal responsibility. Appropriate guidelines may be evolved for allotment of houses, with over-riding priority being given to women elementary school teachers in Education Department's share of the houses. During the Eighth Plan, the programme may be limited to wholly tribal sub-plan blocks and other educationally backward pockets of the country. Houses may be allotted to women teachers on concessional terms. If taken up, the programme should be fully assisted by the Central Government.

(c) Recommendations of the Sub-Committee would be kept in view while finalizing the VIII Plan in the *Education sector*, but actual implementation will depend on final allocation of resources.

श्री शांति त्यागी : माननीय सभापति जी, एक प्रश्न करूंगा छोटा सा। क्या यह मुमकिन है, मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि इन मकानों के निर्माण और रख-रखाव की जिम्मेदारी आप ग्राम पंचायतों को सौंप देंगे? सिर्फ एक क्वेश्चन कर रहा हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Cooperation between Indian and Iraq

*125. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 9th July, 1989, to the effect that tremendous scope exists for extension of cooperation between India and Iraq in economic and other fields;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) how far it is likely to be useful for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both countries have active economic and commercial links which have been steadily expanding over the years. With the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, Iraq is planning to embark upon substantial economic reconstruction programmes which will provide considerable opportunities for Indian participation. Certain specific areas of product and project exports have been identified such as engineering goods, rubber products, iron ore pellets, consumer durables, civil construction, infra-structural development, railway sector and operation maintenance contracts. In other areas. Indo-Iraqi relations have traditionally been close and broad-based. These are being further expanded through exchage of high level visits and active implementation of the cultural exchange programme.